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U.S. Congressman

# Mark Steven Kirk

Proudly serving the people of the 10th District of Illinois



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### Featured Video...



## Featured Video of the Week

**06/15/09:** Congressman Kirk discusses his efforts to fight the rise of "Kush" in the suburbs, a new type of "super-marijuana" that is as expensive as crack cocaine. Click here to view the video clip.

### Survey: Should teachers be allowed to search for weapons?

We were all shocked and saddened by the events that took place last week at Virginia Tech. Schools should be the safest places in America, and teachers need all the resources possible to protect our children.

Should Congress pass the Teacher Safety Act, which would permit any full-time teacher to search a book bag or locker if, in their professional judgment, they fear a gun has come into the classroom?

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### Kirk In the News...

6/16/2009: <u>Lawmakers</u> offer 'practical' health reform plan

Dear Friends,

Last week, we witnessed a tragedy.

As we grieve, we should also turn to reforms that would help to prevent such crimes in the future. One such reform, backed by the National Education Association, would be to protect full-time teachers by giving them a new authority to search book bags or lockers if, in their professional judgment, a weapon has come into the classroom.

This proposal, H.R. 5295 – The Student and Teacher Safety Act – passed the House by a bipartisan vote last September. It should be enacted this year, helping education professionals to protect their students and their workplaces.

### House Passes Hastings/Kirk Holocaust Archives Resolution

I was very pleased when the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution Wednesday that was introduced by Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) and I calling for five European nations to ratify previously signed agreements that would open Holocaust archives to survivors and their families.

At a time when the Government of Iran is sponsoring official Holocaust denial conferences, we should open the archives to make sure that the big lie will not be successful with regard to the murder of six million people.

6/16/2009: Moderates to Present Their Health Care Plan

6/16/2009: Rep. Kirk wants tougher penalties for

super pot

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### **Economic Development**

Recently, a spokeswoman at the Great Lakes Naval Base claimed the Navy would not open the new Gate 4 – a gate critical to the rebirth of North Chicago. Upon hearing the news, I immediately called the Secretary of the Navy to resolve the matter. After our talk, the Secretary reaffirmed the Navy's commitment to North Chicago. According to the Navy, Gate 4 will now open "on budget and on schedule."

Backed by our successful efforts to save the VA, preserve education funding and expand the base, we are providing strong federal support to spur economic development in the upper part of the 10th Congressional District.

Please contact me or my staff at (847) 940-0202 if you have any questions or concerns.

It is an honor to serve you in Washington.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk Member of Congress

### Reopening of Navy-base gate back on track Chicago Tribune April 24, 2007 By Ralph Zahorik

A closed entrance to Naval Station Great Lakes in the far north suburbs will reopen after all, Rep. Mark Kirk (R-III.) said Monday after discussions with top Navy brass.

Last week, officials at Great Lakes said the entrance that fronts the new \$6 million King Drive crossing of the Union Pacific railroad tracks would remain closed except for special events. The gate isn't designed to be a major entrance to the base, and money for private security personnel isn't available, a base spokeswoman said.

North Chicago officials want the gate opened to help boost a nearby 40-acre commercial development called Sheridan Crossing. The base entrance, known as Gate 4, would allow easy access to Sheridan Crossing by thousands of Navy personnel, civilian government workers and visitors.

"Opening Gate 4 is a vital component of the revitalization of North Chicago and Sheridan Crossing development," Kirk said. "The increased traffic will bring new life and new businesses to the area, resulting in more jobs and prosperity for the city."

Rear Adm. Jon Bayless, commander of the Navy's Midwest Region, issued a statement with Kirk saying the gate would open.

"Gate 4 will open...to full commuter traffic to reduce gridlock in the community and to help North Chicago restart its business district," Bayless said.

The decision came after discussions between Kirk and the secretary of the Navy.

"The secretary of the Navy made the commitment to open the gate six years ago, and today they are following through on that promise," Kirk said. North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham Jr. said: "I'm glad to see [Kirk] moved so quickly ... It's definitely something needed for the revitalization of North Chicago so we can open our doors to the Navy ... They can come out of that gate and be a part of our community."

It isn't clear whether the gate will be open 24 hours a day, Rockingham said. "They might close it at midnight. Still, it's good that it's opening," he said.

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